

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 6, lines 3-19, please amend the specification language as follows:

The self-restrained pressure gasket of the invention is intended to be inserted within an annular groove provided in a bell end opening of a female ~~plastic~~ pipe and is capable of both joining and sealing the female ~~plastic~~ pipe to a mating male plastic pipe having an interior surface and an exterior surface. The gasket is formed with an annular gasket body made of a resilient elastomeric material and has an inner circumferential region and an outer circumferential region. A segmented ring which is preferably formed of a plurality of hardened ring segments is integrally molded within the material of the gasket body so that the ring segments are at least partially embedded within the resilient elastomeric material. Each of the ring segments has an inner circumferential surface, an outer circumferential surface, front and rear end faces and opposing sides. At least one row of teeth is located on the inner circumferential surface of at least selected ones of the ring segments for engaging selected points on the exterior surface of the mating male plastic pipe. The ring segments are located within the annular gasket body with the inner circumferential surfaces thereof initially forming an acute angle with respect to the exterior surface of the mating male pipe section. Preferably, a plurality of rows of teeth are located on the inner circumferential surface of at least selected ones of the ring segments. The acute angle which is formed between the inner circumferential surface of the ring segments and the inner circumferential region of the gasket is in the range from about 5 to 20 degrees so that the teeth do not initially engage the exterior surface of the mating male pipe.

On page 6, lines 21-29 and page 7, lines 1-5, please amend the language of the specification as follows:

The self-restrained gasket of the invention is used to form a pipe joint including a female ~~plastic~~ pipe having a bell end opening with an annual groove for receiving a sealing gasket as previously described. The bell end opening is sized to receive the male spigot end of a mating plastic pipe. The self-restrained pressure gasket is located within the annular groove provided in the bell end opening of the female ~~plastic~~ pipe. The mating plastic pipe is inserted into the bell end opening of the female ~~plastic~~ pipe with the male and female pipes being aligned along a central axis with at least selected teeth of the hardened ring segments being initially angled away from the outer surface of the male plastic pipe. The teeth of the annular gasket are forced into engagement with the exterior surface of the male plastic pipe as the pipe joint is assembled by means of a force applied to the rear end face

of the ring segments. This force causes the teeth to be forced downwardly in the direction of the exterior surface of the mating male pipe so that the teeth grip the exterior pipe surface. The teeth are oriented to allow movement of the male pipe in a first direction relative to the female bell end opening during the assembly process but to resist movement in a opposite direction once the pipe joint is made up.

On page 8, lines 12-14, please amend the language of the specification as follows:

Figure 4 is another horizontal, quarter sectional view of another embodiment of the pipe joint of the invention in which the female, bell end is formed of metal and showing the assembly of the metal gland fitting which is used to make up the joint and with the gland fitting spaced slightly apart from the self-restraining gasket for ease of illustration.

On page 12, between lines 6 and 8, please add a new paragraph as follows:

In the joint illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, the female, bell pipe end 11 and gland fitting 31 are formed of plastic. However, in Figure 4, the female, bell pipe end 11 and gland fitting 31 are formed of metal, such as from ductile iron.

On page 16, lines 4-12, please amend the language of the specification as follows:

An invention has been provided with several advantages. The self-restrained pressure gasket of the invention is capable of joining and sealing the female bell pipe end of a ~~plastic~~ first pipe to a mating male spigot end of a second plastic pipe. Because the ring segments are either integrally molded within the annular gasket body or otherwise pre-positioned, the possibility of mistakes during field assembly are virtually eliminated. In the case of integrally molded gripping segments, as internal pressure builds, the ring segments supply more pressure to the exterior surface of the mating male spigot pipe end. This action helps to insure the integrity of the joint. Additionally, the hardened ring segments aid in sealing the joint by keeping a constant gripping pressure at even the lowest operating pressure of the pipeline.

On page 24, please amend the language of the Abstract as follows:

A restraining element for preventing separation of a pipe joint used to join a bell end of a female plastic pipe to the male end of a mating pipe. The restraining element is formed from a compressible body of elastomeric material, the compressible body having a segmented metal ring located therein with gripping teeth for engaging an outer surface of the mating male pipe. The ring segments making up the segmented metal ring are oriented such that the gripping teeth of the ring segments are out of contact with and initially angled away from the outer surface of the male plastic pipe. The teeth of the annular gasket are forced into engagement with the exterior surface of the male plastic pipe as the pipe joint is assembled. The teeth are oriented to allow movement of the male pipe in a first direction relative to the female bell end opening during assembly, but to resist movement in a opposite direction after the pipe joint has been assembled.